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SCANNING WASHINGTON'S BIG DEVELOPER

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Quadrangle Development Corp. is a commercial real estate developer that controls more than 2 million square feet of office and retail space in the Washington area and constructs buildings for its own portfolio. The company seems to have an endless appetite for development projects.

Quadrangle's roots go way back. In 1961, Pennsylvania Avenue was anything but a prestigious address when John F. Kennedy first expressed concern after his inaugural parade ran down the dilapidated street. Kennedy called for action. In 1972 Congress created the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corp. (PADC) and granted it the responsibility of revitalizing the avenue from the Capitol to the White House. In its first 20 years the PADC invested \$138 million in public improvements along the street.

A development competition was held in 1978 to preserve the 150-year-old National Theatre which would become the cornerstone of National Place. The only team to propose preservation,

a partnership led by Quadrangle, won the right to develop the site. The 1.6 million square feet of National Place includes the 774-room J.W. Marriott, twin office buildings with a total of 417,000 square feet, Rouse's retail wizardry incorporated into a 150,000-square-foot shopping area, and the historic 1,700-seat National Theatre. Completed in 1984, it is perhaps Quadrangle's best known work.

Quadrangle's success didn't end with National Place. The company soon developed a second mixed-use project not far away, the 950-room Grand Hyatt Hotel with the adjoining Washington Center office complex.

Other projects completed by Quadrangle during the past decade include: A 156,000-square-foot office building at 1400 L St. NW; a 220,000-square-foot office building at 901 E St. NW; 1709 New York Ave. NW; 1919 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; a 285,000-square-foot building at 2020 K St. NW; a 115,000-square-foot building at 2033 K St. NW; and the company's first building at 2030 M St. NW. Rents in the buildings range from \$30 to \$40 per square foot.

In Virginia its holdings include the 30-acre campus-style Fairbrook Business Park off the Dulles Access Road in Herndon. Quadrangle also

has three buildings on 12 acres off Sunrise Valley Drive and the Dulles Access Road in Reston. Last October Quadrangle started work on a 100,000-square-foot speculative building at 1600 International Dr. in Tysons Corner. Quadrangle has also expanded into Maryland, with the 212-acre Quince Orchard Corporate Park in Gaithersburg off Interstate 270.

The Washington Post rated Quadrangle as the area's 15th largest private company. The company has topped the \$1 billion mark in developments. Founded in 1969 by Robert Gladstone, its president, the company has an annual revenue of \$278 million and around 200 employees.

Creating an efficient communications system for a corporation of this size was challenging. Several years ago Quadrangle installed low-power repeater systems that allow for telephone interconnect to other sites. Radios used include Bendix/King LPU4991s and Motorola HT1000s. The Bendix/King channel plan appears below. The newer HT1000s have a similar, but not identical, channel line-up. Radios not having a talkaround switch have talkaround capability in the even-numbered channels.

Almost every site is licensed and "owned" under a different name which is indicated when possible.

The assessor's parcel number
(square number) from the prop-

erty record is frequently used as
part of this name.

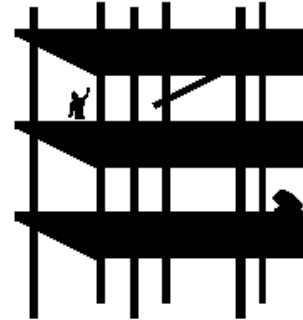
Bank 3 in the following list is
empty.

Bank 1 - NW DC (2020 K in Bank 6)

01 464.6625r [136.5] 2130 P (2130 P St Assoc)
03 463.7875r [136.5] 2033 M (Empire Assoc)
05 464.0625r [136.5] 2030 M (Bicentennial Assoc)
07 461.2875r [136.5] 2033 K (Quadrangle LP)
09 464.1375r [136.5] 1919 Pa (Square 118 Assoc)
11 463.8625r [136.5] 1400 L (14L Assoc)
13 461.2375r [136.5] 901 E (9E Assoc)

Bank 2 - National Place

01 463.6875r [136.5] 1331 Pa Engineers (Sq 254 LP)
02 463.3000r [103.5] 1331 Pa Porters (Sq 254 LP)
03 464.2000r [136.5] Nat'l Press Engineering
04 464.3750s [d343] JW Marriott 14th St Day
05 463.3750r [d343] JW Marriott 14th St Night (Sq 254 LP)
06 463.2750s [136.5] The Shops (Nat'l Press Bldg Corp)
07 461.9375r [136.5] 1301 Pa (1301 Assoc)
09 463.9625r [94.8] 1709 NY
14 463.6875s [CSQ] 1331 Pa (Square 254 LP)



Bank 4 - Hyatt/Washington Center

01 462.8875r [136.5] 1001 G (Sq 345 LP) [company HQ]
03 461.7250r [d743] Hyatt Engineering
04 469.6375s [136.5] Hyatt Emergency
05 ----- Woodies Emergency (gone)

Bank 5 - Fairfax County

01 463.2875r [136.5] 200 Fairbrook (Fairbrook Bus Pk Assoc, Herndon)
03 461.8375r [136.5] 8300 LP (CQ Two Assoc LP; 11130 Sunrise Valley Dr, Reston)
05 464.6375r [136.5] High Ridge (3A LP; 11190 Sunrise Valley Dr, Reston)
07 462.0875r [136.5] 3B LP (11180 Sunrise Valley Dr, Reston)

Bank 6 - Montgomery County

01 462.8375r [136.5] QOCC I Assoc (101 Orchard Ridge Dr, Gaithersburg)
03 461.5125r [136.5] QOCC II
05 463.9125r [136.5] 2020 K (Market West Assoc)
07 464.6375r [136.5] Crescent B (QOCC Assoc; 902 Wind River Ln, Gaithersburg)

Bank 7 - Capitol Hill

01 461.1875r [136.5] CPAS (777 N Capitol St)

Bank 8 - Prince George's County

01 463.7625r [136.5] Route 50 (Ctr for Pub Admin & Svc Inc; 4200 Parliament Pl, Lanham)

NDW GOES TRUNKED

In May, the Naval District of Washington implemented the use of a VHF EDACS trunked system. The output frequencies are **138.775, 140.125, and 140.625**. Input to 138.775 is 148.30 and to 140.125 is 149.05. The primary users identified thus far are the NDW fire department and NDW security. It is suspected, but not confirmed, that the Navy Ceremonial Guard also uses this frequency. All three of these elements are directly subordinate to Naval District headquarters under the recent reorganization. Units directly subordinate to Naval Station Washington and tenant units continue to use the 400 MHz trunked system.

SEASHORE SCANNING

Every summer we receive requests for beach frequencies. Here are the primary frequencies for area beach resorts.

Maryland Shore

39.1000s [CSQ] MSP Statewide
39.2200s [110.9] Md DNR Marine PD
39.6000s [179.9] MSP Berlin Bk "X"
46.3600- [CSQ] OC FD simulcast
46.3800s [CSQ] Worcester Co FD1
47.3200s [94.8] State Roads 1 (statewide)
47.4000s [94.8] State Roads 3 (working)
122.8000s [CSQ] OC Airport (trunk simulcasts)
154.0250s [146.2] OC FD5 (medevac patch)
155.3700s [CSQ] OC still used
157.1500s [CSQ] OC Coast Guard (OC FD6 patch)

151.4600s [114.8] Md DNR1 Forests
151.3250s [114.8] Md DNR2 Parks
159.4500r [114.8] Md DNR3 Statewide
170.0500r [CSQ] Chincoteague Island NSP
453.3500r [118.8] MSP Executive Protection
460.4250- [CSQ] OC PD simulcast (patrol ch)
462.9750d [127.3] Med 10 (Worcester Central)
463.0750d [127.3] Med 4 (Atlantic General)
859.9875r OC Trunked (1) two-way/ phone
853.9625r OC Trunked (2) two-way/ phone
855.2375r OC Trunked (3) two-way/ control
860.9875r OC Trunked (4) two-way
856.7375r OC Trunked (5) two-way/ control
857.7375r OC Trunked (6) two-way/ control
858.7375r OC Trunked (7) two-way
859.7375r OC Trunked (8) two-way
860.7375r OC Trunked (9) two-way/ control
866.0125r OC Conventional Channel



Every radio-equipped Ocean City agency has at least one talkgroup on the town's GE EDACS trunked system (some 50 active talkgroups total). Police departments in Ocean Pines and Berlin also dispatch on the system. In an EDACS trunked system each channel is logically numbered (not for use by humans but the computer controller). Telephone

patches take place on the lower channels with the bulk of the two-way traffic favoring the higher-numbered channels. Like Motorola trunked systems, a user may "private call" and directly communicate with another user without disturbing others.

Ocean City has had chronic interference problems with systems in adjacent states which also use these frequencies. Several of the system's frequencies, as a result, have changed during the past few years. The above is current, but watch 856.2375 and 857.2375, which have been recently licensed (no activity monitored on them as of yet). The anti-scanner tones tend to appear and disappear for weeks at a time. The city routinely patches external frequencies into the trunked system on an as-needed basis. "Patchable" frequencies include 33.78, 33.98, 39.1, 39.6, 46.36, 46.38, 122.8, 154.025, 157.15 and 460.425.

Delaware Shore

33.4200s [CSQ] Sussex Co VFDs (portables)
33.5600s [CSQ] Bethany Beach VFD (private channel)
33.5800s [CSQ] Sussex Co VFDs (fire police)
33.7800s [CSQ] Statewide FD1 Dispatch
33.8600s [CSQ] Sussex Co FDs (shuttles-drills)
33.9600s [CSQ] Sussex Co FD2 (east Tac)
44.6800d [123.0] Parks 1 (mob to base)
44.7200d [123.0] Parks 2 (base to mob/splx)
45.2800s [123.0] Parks 3
47.2200s [CSQ] DeIDOT 1
151.0700s [141.3] DR&BA Ferry

(replaced 156.35)
151.2950r [162.2] DR&BA PD (replaced 155.31)
151.6850s [d162] Pot Nets/Indian Landing (CH2 is 154.6)
154.1150s [123.0] South Bethany PD
154.4000s [CSQ] Blades VFD repeats 33 MHz chs
154.6000s [CSQ] North Shores

154.2500s [118.8] Cape May Co FD3
154.3100s [118.8] Atlantic County FD1
154.3850r [118.8] Stone Harbor FD
154.4000r [118.8] Lower Township FD
154.4450r [141.3] Ocean City FD
154.7400r [118.8] Absecon PD (also CTCSS 136.5?)
154.8750r [118.8] Middle Twp PD
154.9650r [118.8] Wildwood PD

154.7400s [156.7] Rehoboth Beach PD1
 154.7550r [123.0] DSP3 "SusCom"
 154.8000s [CSQ] Bethany Beach PD
 154.8750s [156.7] Rehoboth Beach PD2
 155.0100s [118.8] Dewey Beach PD (Fenwick Island too?)
 155.0400s [123.0] Fenwick Island
 155.2500s [CSQ] Rehoboth Beach Parking
 155.4750s [CSQ] DSP7 NLEEF/SusCom Data
 155.7600r [d073] Sea Colony (151.925 still used)
 155.8050s [114.8] South Bethany Beach Patrol
 155.8200s [156.7] Rehoboth Beach City !! Svcs
 155.9550s [CSQ] ; Lewes Public Works
 156.0300s [d223] Rehoboth Beach Patrol
 158.8350r [110.9] Bethany Beach Town Svcs
 159.0900s [123.0] Lewes PD/Parking/Beach Patrol
 160.4550s [CSQ] Queen Anne Railroad
 453.2500r [d023] Rehoboth Beach FD3r/4s Tac
 453.3000r [d023] Rehoboth Beach FD1r/2s rpts 33.78
 453.5250r [141.3] DART Buses
 453.6250r [123.0] UofD College of Marine Studies
 453.6500s [d023] Rehoboth Beach FD5 Tac
 460.5500r [d051] Lewes VFD repeats 33 MHz
 460.5750r [d023] Bethany Beach FD Tac
 460.6000r [192.8] Bethany Beach FD rpts 33 MHz
 460.6375r [192.8] Millsboro FD
 461.3000r [d023] Henlopen Acres Town Gov't

462.5625s [CSQ] Henlopen Acres Beach Club
 462.9750r [192.8] Med 10 Sussex County Medics
 463.0000s [192.8] Med 1 Sussex County Medic Tac
 463.1250d [192.8] Med 6 Beebe Medical Center



Some state troopers, DeIDOT road crews and most DNREC park rangers already use the state's digital trunked system. Channel plans for the 33 MHz Sussex County fire channels are consistent through channel 4 (channels 3 and 4 are not listed since they are not used along the shore). Channels 5 and above, if they exist, vary depending upon the department (33.42, 33.58 and 33.86 are the most common). The "high band" fire department repeaters are ideal to monitor since many of them repeat the 33 MHz channels from great distances.

South Jersey

122.7000s [CSQ] Ocean City-Cape May Airports
 153.8600s [118.8] Cape May Mun Gov't/ PD Tac
 153.9650s [118.8] Cape May Mun Gov't
 154.0100s [118.8] Egg Harbor Twp FD
 154.0250r [114.8] Atlantic City FD
 154.0400s [118.8] Sea Isle Rescue
 154.0550r [173.8] Lower Twp Rescue
 154.1300s [118.8] Cape May Co FD1
 154.1600s [118.8] Middle Twp FD
 154.1900s [118.8] Cape May Co FD2
 154.2050s [118.8] Somers Point FD1

155.0100s [118.8] Cape May City PD4/ PD Common
 155.1300r [118.8] Atlantic City PD Primary
 155.1900r [118.8] Cape Communications
 155.2200s [118.8] North Wildwood Rescue
 155.2950s [118.8] Rescue 1 (medics)
 155.3400s [114.8] Rescue 2 (Tomlin Mem Hosp)
 155.4300r [118.8] Wildwood Crest PD
 155.4900r [118.8] Lower Twp PD
 155.5650r [118.8] Sea Isle City PD
 155.6400r [173.8] North Wildwood PD
 155.6550r [118.8] Eg! ! g Harbor Twp PD
 155.6700r 1;118.8] Stone Harbor PD
 155.7000s [118.8] Cape May City PD1
 155.7450s [203.5] Wildwood Beach Patrol
 154.7850r [118.8] Cape May Co Sheriff 1
 155.8200s [118.8] Lower Twp Mun Gov't/PD5
 157.0500s [CSQ] USCG Cape May (working)
 171.2375s [CSQ] USCG Cape May
 171.3125s [CSQ] USCG Cape May (FD)
 171.3625s [CSQ] USCG Cape May
 453.5500r [173.8] Cape May Beach Patrol
 453.9500r [????] Ocean City Beach/ Tag Patrol
 453.9875r [173.8] Avalon Borough Beach Patrol (PD3)
 460.0250r [156.7] Brigantine City PD
 460.1250r [173.8] Avalon PD
 460.1500r [156.7] Atlantic City PD Tac 1 Alternate
 460.3250r [156.7] Atlantic City PD Tac 3
 460.3500r [173.8] Ocean City PD
 460.4250r [156.7] Atlantic City PD Tac 2 Primary
 460.5000r [123.0] Beach Haven !! PD

For more information on South Jersey, visit Joe Cardani's website (<http://www.erols.com/jcardani/sjscan.htm>) and John McColman's website (<http://www.richmond.infi.net/~jmccolma/capemay.html>).

MCI TAKING OVER ST MARY'S

by Frederick Cox
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It appears as if Saint Mary's County will purchase a \$30 million radio system from MCI over the next 10 years based on a \$250,000 MCI study. The study, performed at the request of the county commissioners, basically says MCI should take over the entire computer aided dispatch system, dispatchers and build a new radio system and communications center.

MDTs FOR PCPD

By the time you read this, the Prince George's County Police Department is expected to have received a \$500,000 grant to begin the process of setting up an MDT system in its patrol cars. The department will also tentatively receive another larger grant next year to equip all cruisers. IBM will perform a study with another company examining the existing infrastructure. As of this writing we don't know if the

system will be used to dispatch, but it is supposed to do MILES/NCIC checks as well as local warrant checks.



NEWSSCAN

DC POLICE COMMUNICATIONS FAILURE. The Metropolitan Police Department's main radio system went out at least three times in 24 hours after a fire at its headquarters building knocked out power to its communications and computer systems in May. The outages, and the poor quality of transmissions from dispatchers, reported the May 28 Washington Times, caused response delays throughout the city. Police dispatchers were able to receive emergency 9-1-1 calls, but they had difficulty dispatching help.

Shortly after the fire forced evacuation of the headquarters building at 300 Indiana Ave. NW, dispatchers moved to the Fire Department's communications center, 300 McMillan Dr. NW, which added lines to help with the load. [It's ironic it took a fire to get the agencies together!] Dispatchers had to use alternate channels when the backup generator, which powered the radio system, failed. The radio system also was

knocked out for several minutes when a burning electrical conduit sent a power surge through the 57-year-old building.

"The department normally operates over seven radio channels, but when the backup generator that powered the transmitter failed, it had to use three weaker backup channels," a police spokesman said. At one point officers had to call their district station every 30 minutes to update where they were since dispatchers couldn't keep track of them.

FREDERICK CITY POLICE MAKE UPGRADES.

Frederick City received a \$126,662 federal grant to replace its 1972 radio consoles, providing the foundation for digital radio channels. The city plans to request \$500,000 in the capital improvement project for two years to complete the upgrade, noted the Frederick News-Post. A police official said the entire police radio system may eventually be encrypted, noting that drug dealers may be listening. In a letter to the mayor the police chief stated that the entire radio system needed to be upgraded but budgetary constraints may make that impractical. Therefore the recommendation is for the city to purchase new communications consoles and digital radios for the special tactical operations patrol units.

The city is also installing portable computers in 25 patrol cars that allow officers to run licenses,

registrations and property

checks and make reports. The equipment, provided by Motorola and USC Policeworks, allows officers to have a choice of using a keyboard or a magnetic pen to enter data. The

"significant safety concern." The consultants recommend the county: Replace the communication system with an 800 MHz system and add 300 portable radios for about \$2.6 to \$3.9 million; Install a computer aided dispatch system (CAD)

Police Department, says the April 30 Washington Post, recently became one of the first law enforcement agencies in the country to test new hand-held computers, which are about the size of a videocassette and weigh less than two pounds. With the

wireless system was purchased with a \$630,000 Justice Department grant and is set up to accommodate other agencies should they wish to join the system.

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY TO GET NEW RADIO SYSTEM.

In April, Queen Anne's County commissioners voted unanimously to approve funding for a new \$4.6 million emergency communications system, which is expected to update the county's 9-1-1 emergency center as well as improve communications among dispatchers, sheriff deputies and firefighters. County agencies, says the April 8 and 15 Annapolis Capital, which are scattered among different systems, would be integrated into a single communications system.

The existing systems reportedly suffer from dead spots, interference from skip and lack interoperability. One official said the county's communications systems are "so antiquated the county has eight different radio systems that in a disaster can't communicate with each other."

A private study of the county's radio system by Carroll Buracker and Associates Inc. also defines the system as inadequate, outdated and presenting a

with a records management system for about \$300,000; add a radio tower in the northern end of the county for about \$40,000; relocate the inadequate 2,000-square-foot facility to a 4,000-square-foot updated building near the Route 18 radio tower for about \$360,000.

GOOD PRESS FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY POLICE CHIEF.

The March 19 Washington Times featured a profile of Edward A. Flynn who was sworn in as Arlington County police chief in November. "No other chief of ! a major department in the metrop olitan area listens to a scanner in the office," the article claimed. The article stressed Flynn's enthusiasm for community oriented policing and says he is decentralizing the department by carving Arlington into community service areas and four districts. With only 26 square miles, Arlington is the smallest of Virginia's 95 counties. It has a population of 186,000 and 350 sworn officers with a budget last year of \$31 million. Flynn, 50, left his \$85,000-a-year job as Chelsea, Mass. police chief for the \$101,978 position in Arlington.

ALEXANDRIA TESTS WIRELESS PDAs.

The Alexandria

tap of a pen, officers will be able to use the personal data assistants, or PDAs, to run license plate checks, send messages to other officers and determine if an outstanding warrant exists for someone's arrest.

The department will initially test six of the devices and evaluate them after six months. The computers, which cost \$600 to \$700 each, are operated with the touch of a special pen, so it's not necessary for an officer to type into a keyboard to retrieve information. TelePad Corp. is the Herndon-based software developer and systems integrat ! or for the project. Last y ear, Alexandria police unveiled another high-tech tool -- a digital scanner and cellular transmitter that allows cruisers to quickly transmit photographs. An officer can scan in a family photo of a lost child and send it to other cruisers patrolling the area.

HIGH-TECH MANASSAS PARK POLICE.

Despite a population, budget and manpower dwarfed by its neighbors, the Manassas Park police department has high-tech resources to make the big guys drool. According to Journal reporter Kelby Hartson, the officers have laptops in their cruisers; the depart

ment was among the first in the region to switch to a detailed, computer-based crime reporting system; and last fall, the department implemented a digital radio system. Manassas Park went in with Manassas Police Department for the laptops and

ment in a Radio Shack scanner, a 31-year-old Virginia Beach man pleaded guilty in April to 21 counts of intercepting conversations and making harassing calls.

The case against John A.

radio system, buying the whole package for \$475,000. The radios give officers more channels with encryption capability. All this for a department with 14 sworn officers and eight cruisers in a city with a population of 9,000 covering 2.5 square miles.

FAUQUIER COUNTY CONSIDERING TRUNKED SYSTEM. The committee investigating options for replacing Fauquier County's aging emergency radio systems has recommended the purchase of an 800 MHz trunked system, states the June 17 Fauquier Times-Democrat. The committee studied 12 alternatives for replacing existing systems, including using both analog and digital systems and UHF and VHF frequencies.

The committee determined that the advantages of a digital system far outweighed analog systems because digital systems are more reliable, less subject to distortion and interference and were produced at a lower cost. The proposed 800 MHz system is supposed to provide coverage of 95 percent of the county at 95 percent reliability. The 800 MHz trunked system's only disadvantage was its cost; it was the most expensive digital system studied. The system could cost as much as

\$4.3 million. Supervisors had previously allocated \$350,000 in the Capital Improvements Program to begin design work for the system. But a revenue source for purchasing the costly equipment has yet to be identified.

Officials complain the current low-band system has experienced increased failure rates because of its age, provides limited coverage within buildings and is susceptible to interference, suffers from poor coverage in the county's northern and southern ends and is incompatible with systems of other jurisdictions. Acquiring the frequencies needed for the system could take a year, according to an expert brought to the meeting. Finding the funding for the new system, however, could be a bigger challenge.



VA BEACH CORDLESS PHONE STALKER. A 14-year-old girl was threatened with rape. A gay man was harassed. Single women got voice mail saying they would be attacked as soon as they came home from work. They were all neighbors in the Timberlake section of Virginia Beach, and they all had cordless telephones, reports the April 16 Washington Post. In a two-year phone harassment case that started with a \$100 invest-

Halstead Jr. included 16 victims. The scheme was traced to Halstead by one of the victims, who learned from a friend of Halstead's that he was monitoring others' conversations. Armed with phone numbers and addresses he uncovered, he used voice mail services to deliver menacing messages. In some cases, he replaced his targets' voice mail greetings with pornographic messages. He managed to program the messaging system to send harassing calls to some residents as many as 50 times daily, and some of the calls continued automatically even after he was taken into custody.

OFFICER ACCUSED OF ILLEGAL CELLULAR, PAGER LISTENING. Detective Dean Ward was a bang-up narcotics investigator says the April 12 Raleigh News and Observer. "He seemed to have a radar that picked up drug dealers and a remarkable talent for showing up at just the right moment for a bust." But Federal investigators claim the officer from Graham in Alamance County [NC] had a little help from electronic scanning equipment "illegally used to target and intercept cellular phone conversations and pager messages."

"Many court decisions in recent years," the article stated, "have widened the investigative powers of police, notably in drug cases, and narrowed the constitutional rights of suspects. But in the view of investigators, Ward's eavesdropping clearly crossed

CATCHES DRUG SUSPECTS. Three Massachusetts men who allegedly made a drug deal using a cordless telephone were arrested after a resident -- whose police scanner picked up signals from the phone -- heard the conversation and called the

the line, violating the suspects' Fourth Amendment protection from unreasonable searches."

In late March, after a six-month investigation by the FBI, Ward was indicted on 13 counts of electronic eavesdropping -- the cellular equivalent of wiretapping a private line without a search warrant. When Graham police officials learned of the investigation late last year, they suspended Ward. In January, two months before the indictment, they fired him. Several pending drug cases that hinged on Ward's detective work were dismissed. Numerous convicted drug traffickers have contacted lawyers about the possibility of new trials or having their convictions thrown out.

The indictment charges that Ward had a vast arsenal of equipment for intercepting pager communications, a scanner receiver, Message Tracker and Digital Data Intercept decoder for tracking cellular calls. "Using the equipment, the indictment says, Ward intercepted hundreds of conversations and pager messages. Each of the alleged episodes of eavesdropping would have violated the caller's and listener's constitutional right to privacy."

SCANNER LISTENER

police. The April 3 Quincy Patriot Ledger said the men come from North Attleboro, Attleboro and Plainville.

AGENT SUES POLICE CHIEF OVER TELEPHONE TAPES

A Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent filed a federal lawsuit claiming that Vidalia's [Georgia] police chief recorded her private telephone conversations using a police scanner. According to the April 1 Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Agent Vickey Horton Tapley alleges Chief Darrell Collins used the scanner to listen in on three conversations she had on her home's cordless telephone Nov. 3. She claims that Collins then submitted a written transcript of the conversations to her supervisor, GBI Agent Greg Owen, to get her in trouble.

Tapley's "supervisor criticized her and recommended her employer take corrective action," the suit states. Her "employer would not allow her to work any longer in her hometown of Vidalia." The lawsuit does not describe the content of the three conversations that Tapley had with a GBI agent, a former GBI agent and an emergency medical technician. The suit seeks unspecified damages. Vidalia was an area Tapley covered as a GBI agent for nearly five years. The suit claims Collins vio

lated federal law, which prohibits the interception of telephone conversations using equipment such as radio scanners.



CONGRESSMAN SUES ANOTHER OVER ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING

A congressman whose cellular phone conference call with House Speaker Newt Gingrich was turned over to reporters has sued the congressman believed responsible, seeking \$30,000 plus unspecified punitive damages, says the March 16 Liability Week. Rep. John A. Boehner (R-OH), who heads the House Republican Conference, filed the lawsuit March 9 against Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), accusing him of violating the Electronic Communications Privacy Act by turning over a tape of an illegally recorded conference call to reporters.

A Florida couple using a police scanner reportedly recorded the conversation involving Boehner, Gingrich (R-GA) and other House Republican leaders in December 1996 as they discussed the political impact of ethics charges against Gingrich. The couple gave a tape to McDermott, then senior Democrat on

the House Ethics Committee, who allegedly gave it to reporters. The Justice Department has been investigating the incident to decide if it should be prosecuted as a criminal case. The couple who made the tape already

are being developed for use by the end of the year. Last year, a hacker claimed to have intercepted pager messages between the President and the White House during a visit to Philadelphia and posted them on the Internet.

in mind and wireless phone users were assured that their calls were safe from interception and that their phones could not be cloned. These assurances seemed rock solid, says the May 4 Irish Times, until recently.

pleaded guilty to using a radio scanner to intentionally intercept a phone call, paying a \$1,000 fine.

WHITE HOUSE PAGERS HACKED AGAIN?

Pager "messages tracking President Clinton's route while in Dallas on June 2 were intercepted by computer hackers," boasted WFAA-TV reporter Robert Riggs during a June 15 newscast. A computer hacker reportedly told WFAA that the FBI's pagers in Dallas were also "penetrated," revealing messages sent to agents following a bank robbery. Pager messages between law enforcement agencies protecting the president were! ! also reportedly intercepted.&nb sp; The messages supposedly show the chief executive's movements from Love Field to the North Dallas home of Raymond Nasher.

"You can download enough software free off the Internet to sit there and basically pick off anybody's pager messages that have gone out," warned an unidentified hacker. "News 8," Riggs reported, "has confirmed that messages sent to FBI agents have been intercepted. That means hackers could find out when drug raids or other arrests are being planned. It would be invaluable information to criminals." PageNet says new security measures

SALESMAN SAYS PAGERS NOT SECURE.

In New Zealand, a secure cellphone and pager retailer has publicized loopholes in the communications systems used to tell VIP transport drivers where to pick up prime ministers attending the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' meeting. It is understood the retailer, who told One Network News about the alleged security breach, had tried to sell secure pagers to VIP Transport and the Diplomatic Protection Squad, the part of the police that provides security for (New Zealand) Prime Minister Jenny Shipley, ministers when deemed nece! ! ssary, and diplomats.

He said an old computer, a program downloaded off the Internet, and a scanner -- a package costing about \$150 -- could pick up the pager messages from the head office to drivers telling them who to pick up, where, and their destination. While it is illegal to use or disclose intercepted radio communications under radio broadcasting regulations, there appears to be a gray area in the law for new technology about pager communications with different legal interpretations possible.

GSM PHONE SECURITY AT RISK. GSM, a global standard for mobile phone communications, had been developed with security

Two reporters who uncovered wrongdoing at the National Irish Bank were alleged to have been put under surveillance. Their mobile phones were reported to have behaved strangely, with dropped calls and unusual interference on the line. The implication was that expensive equipment could have been used to emulate the base station through which the phones made calls, overriding the encryption which normally protects GSM calls by scrambling the contents.

Second, US researchers announced they cracked the encryption used to protect the identity of a GSM mobile phone -- opening up the s! ! ort of cloning nightmare that ha s plagued analog phones. To make matters worse, evidence was discovered that the security of GSM phones against eavesdropping had been deliberately weakened. The A5 cipher had a key size of 64 bits, but the last 10 bits had been set to zero, reducing the key size to 54 bits and making the cipher less secure.

A third concern regards the possibility of the user's phone to be used as a tracking device. Not many people were concerned when the fugitive US hacker Kevin Mitnick was arrested thousands of miles from home after

police homed in on his mobile phone signal. But early this year it emerged that authorities in Switzerland used this technique to keep tabs on all of citizens. The locations of all mobile phones were being logged by the network. A regimen similar to

ered in using the service can infringe privacy and could be used by government agencies to spy on all of us in order to spy on some of us."

BUGGING JAPAN. Newspaper

homes and offices for bugs and remove them. There are also hucksters who plant bugs and then pretend to find them for grateful clients, warns the author of a recent book on wiretapping. He says that when he drives around Tokyo he will sometimes

the electronic tagging of criminals was being applied to everyone who owned a mobile phone.

Ireland's two mobile network operators, East Digifone and Eircell, say they have full confidence in the security of GSM calls. CCS International, which operates the Counter Spy Shops in London, New York and other cities, disagrees. Not only does it sell equipment for this purpose to authorities, such as police forces, it offers seminars on the subject. One staff member said "yes absolutely" when asked if GSM calls could be intercepted. Equipment which cost about \$100,000 had been used successfully and in some cases worked by emulating a base station and instructing a GSM handset to drop AES encryption.

In many ways the issues which have been raised over GSM security (against eavesdropping and theft), and privacy (against call logging and movement logging) are a parable of our times, the reporter states. Consumers are being asked to put their faith in an international standard which had not been tested by anyone except its designers, since the security provisions are kept secret. "Even if the security systems work and protect conversations," the article concludes, "the information gathered

reports and a TV documentary about the debut of kid-tapping products and services have set off alarm bells over what is seen as a symptom of a broader erosion in the confidence and trust that have long underpinned the tightly woven Japanese social fabric, reports the June 6 Los Angeles Times. A Japanese detective firm, for example, says it receives 20 inquiries a day for electronic sleuthing services by parents concerned about their children. Telecommunications giant NTT sells mobile phones that allow others to know the location of its user -- reportedly a help to parents who want to know where their children are.

Wiretapping telephones is illegal in Japan, but it is not illegal to make or sell tapping devices, and those who use them are rarely caught or prosecuted. Moreover, surreptitious listening, recording or filming are all legal, as long as no crime is committed when planting the bugging device. Constant media interest, the huge selection of wiretaps, hidden cameras and bug-detecting devices displayed on the shelves of certain electronic stores and the number of magazine ads for mail-order sales of such products suggest a healthy market. The Yomiuri newspaper, Japan's largest, recently dubbed this "A Bugging Society."

A number of companies will scan

use a scanner to intercept bugging device transmissions. "On a good day, you can hear 10 or 20 conversations, on a bad day, one or two," he said. "In schools, business and politics, and in the relationships between citizens and their government, confidence is quickly eroding," a Japanese civil liberties attorney lamented. "The old Japanese value of 'Let's trust each other' is crumbling... Instead, it's 'Let's steal information from each other and use it to get each other.'"

TWISTERS BOOST WEATHER RADIO SALES.

Retailers of radios designed specifically to pick up National Weather Service broadcasts, including severe-weather alerts, have realized tremendous spikes in sales since early this year when severe thunderstorms and tornadoes struck the Midwest and Southeast, according to the June 6 Allentown Morning Call. Media relations manager for Radio Shack said the company had a year's supply run out in three to four months. Radio Shack owns the Chinese plant where its weather radios are made. Oregon Scientific, who has just started selling the radios, says it probably will sell over 100,000 units within the first year if they can be manufactured quickly enough.

Scanners also proved their value during the recent tornadoes in western Maryland. The close-knit mountain town of Frostburg and its "ubiquitous police scanner radios not only brought people close together after the

the main dispatch channels. The county also has the right to two yearly inspections of the media's radios and can confiscate them if they have been altered.

GOOD SAMARITAN SCANNER LISTENERS. For

volunteers need a \$3,000 radio to keep listening. For details on the Northern Emergency Services <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Meadows/1617/>

CUTTING OFF NUISANCE CELL PHONES. Restaurants and theaters, says the May 3 Sunday Times, may soon purchase an Israeli jamming device, known as C-Guard, that prevents wireless

fury but saved lives before it," states an editorial in the June 5 Baltimore Sun. "A tornado of this magnitude in a larger, more impersonal place would have wreaked more human damage."

The Frostburg fire chief told the June 4 Washington Post that prompt warnings by the National Weather Service saved most residents from injury. "We got an 8- to 10-minute notification that it was 12 miles west of Frostburg traveling at 45 miles an hour," he said. The alert! ! spread quickly, he added, by commercial radio and by fire-and-rescue scanners owned by many residents in this hilly, sparsely populated section of western Allegany County.

OUTSIDERS TO BUY TRUNKED RADIOS. Sarasota County, Florida has decided to allow the media and others to monitor the county's new digital trunked radio system. But the May 12 Sarasota Herald-Tribune warns it will cost them. The "scanners can be purchased only from Motorola -- the company that sold the county its new system -- and prices range from about \$3,000 for the most basic model to more than \$10,000 for a more complex scanner." The radios will be programmed with certain channels left out; mostly, the media and the public will hear

more than 20 years, a bunch of people from Cleveland's West Side have gathered weekend nights in parking lots (or under bridges when it rains) to monitor police scanners and to rush to emergencies, volunteering as traffic controllers. They have no professional training, states the June 2 Plain Dealer and operate without formal police endorsement. The dozen volunteers call themselves the Northern Emergency Services, and they are equipped for duty. Their cars and trucks are covered with amber st! ! robe lights and seven or eight antennae each. The vehicles carry UHF and VHF radios, scanners and cellular phones.

The team has formal rules prohibiting members from carrying firearms or using strobe lights except while directing traffic. No member can impersonate a police officer. No car can have a siren. The group has ejected about 15 people over the years. Proof of the group's good behavior is its low profile, members said. Police commanders say they have never heard of the group.

The future looks gloomy for the group, which depends on scanners to learn of emergencies. Cleveland police and firefighters are using a trunked radio system. The fire department is preparing to shut down the old system and the

phones from ringing. The device is the size of a large cellular phone and drowns out the signal a phone receives to make it ring on both analog and digital phone networks in Britain. The device waits until it detects a signal coming from a nearby phone before filling the room with jamming signals.

The Israeli army is evaluating the device as a means of barring mobile phone calls from sensitive sites. Hospitals seeking a way to deter phone use around sensitive equipment are also testing the device. Netline Technologies says it sells the devices with great care to assure pranksters do not purchase them. The company is working on a successor that will allow specified users, such as physicians, to still receive calls.

Larry Cordell, David Doernberg, Dr. Willard Hardman and Ken Fowler contributed to this issue's NewsScan.

Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and write articles that relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for style and content.

The Capitol Hill Monitor

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